

Three Rivers Hospital

Board of Commissioners Special Meeting

April 9, 2015

Minutes

The Three Rivers Hospital Board of Commissioners called a special meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2015 in the Hillcrest Commons Area, 415 Hospital Way, Brewster, WA 98812. The presiding officer was Vicki Orford, Chair.

A quorum was present, including:

Vicki Orford, Chair
Jerry Tretwold, Vice Chair
Tracy Shrable, Secretary Arrived at 8:03 a.m.
Mike Pruett, Member
Cherri Thomas, Member

Others present:

J. Scott Graham, Chief Executive Officer
Melanie Neddo, Chief Operating Officer
Jennifer Munson, Chief Financial Officer
Gretchen Aguilar, Chief Nursing Officer
Anita Fisk, Director of Human Resources
Jennifer Marshall, Administrative Assistant
Ty Witt, M.D.
Eric Haeger, M.D.
Keith Hanson, M.D.
Joel Deming, PA-C (phone)
Erica Hickson, ARNP
Michele Hansen, ARNP (phone)
April Vanscoy, Anesthesia
Eric Tollefson, Nursing
Rich Yale, Radiology
Daniel Dinjian, Housekeeping/Laundry
Janet Hanke, Clinic/Admitting
Heidi Caswell, Financial Services
Tonya Vallance, Douglas Okanogan County Fire District 15 EMS
Cindy Button, Aero Methow (phone)

Mission, Vision & Values

Board members took turns reading the mission, vision, and values statements.

V. Orford noted that the board would not discuss any other topics than what was on the agenda.

Emergency Department Contracts Discussion

Dr. Haeger introduced and reviewed a tentative draft contract for "Our Group," local physicians who would form as a legal entity with a new name to provide services to Three Rivers Hospital.

E. Hickson, J. Deming, Dr. Haeger and Dr. Hanson discussed the potential benefits for Three Rivers Hospital to enter into a contract with local providers rather than an outside staffing company. Some board members and administrators shared concerns about a contract exit clause and whether the

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hospital and providers could still maintain a positive working relationship if the agreement didn't work out.

C. Button hears a lot of passion, commitment and dedication from the providers. Aero Methow receives few complaints from patients who are brought here.

C. Thomas likes that the contract is proposed for one year, so it would give both sides a chance to review and determine if it's working or not. She asked if there would be a conflict of interest between "Our Group" and Family Health Centers. Dr. Haeger doesn't think so. The physicians haven't had a chance to talk to Family Health Centers to find out if they can do outside work contractually. If they can't, they will work on changing their contracts. "Our Group" would be an entirely separate entity from Family Health Centers, but billing would be done either through the hospital or Family Health Centers.

T. Vallance believes the rapport with Coast to Coast doctors is different compared to local providers. If the staff and providers don't feel comfortable with who they're working with, the patients can tell. She thinks this proposal is the best bet because it shows the hospital is truly invested in the community and wants to provide the best care.

M. Hansen shared concerns that the same call coverage problems would continue because it's the same group of people. Dr. Hanson said there would be less variety of locums coming in than what there is now, and the physicians would be more collaborative.

V. Orford noted that when discussing Coast to Coast, the board stipulated it wants the same doctors coming in on a rotating basis and that they must be a good fit with the facility. S. Graham said Coast to Coast has agreed to do that, but as they're getting things up and running there would be some frequent changes until connections are established.

J. Tretwold thinks this is an excellent plan. He can't see any negative in the proposal and contract.

M. Pruett liked the presentation and is in favor of exploring this option. C. Thomas agreed. T. Shrable thinks the board needs more time to digest it, and "Our Group" needs more time to work out logistics.

S. Graham explained that the drive to go with Coast to Coast is to see improved coverage in the emergency room and meet financial objectives by increasing patient volumes. It matters less who provides the service than getting the outcomes the hospital needs. The hospital can't cut its way to success; volumes need to grow. Three Rivers needs an attractive ER, both aesthetically and in terms of the quality service provided.

C. Thomas prefers to have an executive session at a future meeting, if possible. M. Pruett feels that community is an important part of life, and he's seen it be successful. The onus on the group is to more closely examine the fine points of the hospital's needs and create a more solid contract.

S. Graham wants to give this the best chance possible, but examine all the potential failure paths just in case. He clarified that the board has already authorized him to negotiate a contract. J. Munson will double-check the requirements for how many proposals the board needs to consider.

V. Orford stated that this discussion will be continued at the next board meeting and would like the board to make a decision at that time.

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Adjournment

C. Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m. M. Pruett seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Vicki Orford, Chair

Jerry Tretwold, Vice-Chair

Tracy Shrable, Secretary

Mike Pruett, Member

Cherri Thomas, Member